



## LIFE'S A BEACH

Florida Modern Contemporary Collaborative  
 Waterfront Design House in Ovington  
 An Elegant Palm Beach Oceanfront House

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YEARS AGO WHILE LIVING IN THE ESTABLISHED GOLF COURSE  
 community of Seagrass Players Club, just outside of Jacksonville, Fla., homeowners Keith  
 and Carol Wilson purchased a small house on Palm Vista Beach in a vacation gateway  
 where the couple and their two kids have enjoyed the beauty of oceanfront views, private  
 recreation areas. "We couldn't believe our kids in finding such a desirable piece of property  
 here," Keith recalls. "It wasn't long before we began to imagine how great it would be to  
 live here full-time instead of just on weekends and summer vacations."

"The Watsons were very hands-on throughout the process yet afforded total creativity to our design team," interior designer Jeffrey S. Strasser says.



Nearly a decade later, that dream became a reality when the couple decided to tear down the existing brick house and rebuild their new residence on the same site, embracing the talents of architect David Patterson and builder Howard Miller — both of whom recommended award-winning interior designer J. Mark. They and Jeffrey S. Strasser completed the mission. "We hadn't worked with the design before but were very familiar with their work," Carol says. "Their unique fashion-forward style was exactly what we desired."

The centerpiece of a nearly two-acre property, the spectacular six-bedroom, six-bathroom main house provides an array of outdoor amenities akin to a private country club, including a full-size tennis court, a golf green, and a new outdoor featuring an Olympic-sized lap pool, two Jacuzzis, a covered lounge and summer kitchen, a hot spa, and multiple outdoor seating areas, all with direct access to the beach and out to the water in historic Charleston's Mediterranean-influenced

2014: The living room's ornate chandelier, pendant lights, two traditional-style range ovens, two ovens that covered a conventional space by front-loading it to a streamlined look, and a granite fireplace surround from Charles Wilson Reproductions, all set atop a glass-topped table from Douglas House.

2015: A traditional-style side table, table pendant, the dining room, where quartzite-top granite island, custom wood table and a high chair from Lewis is showcased in front of a wood surround, granite top, Douglas House. A crystal chandelier, chandelier and quartz-surrounds from Lewis House, a table pendant, pendant lighting.



"My favorite aspect of this house is that it is tailored to the max,"

Saxner says. "It's luxurious and elegant yet casual and welcoming, and really in sync with its owners' personalities."

With an updated, unpretentious take on the family's aesthetic, woodburners and stone fireplaces," Saxner says.

Inside, an eclectic mix of new and antique furnishings features a more relaxed edge with neutral tones throughout. The history repeats pattern continues in the living room, where candy boxes and tea caddy water bars, in homage to the custom, pair with polished stone, worn metal vessels and other local accents. Mexican Murabito stone covers the custom-designed fireplace, flanked by two chairs adorned with stainless steel legs, and continues in columns that lead to the elegantly formal dining room. There, a copper-plated ceiling defines the oval-shaped room from above, while below an "iron rug" of sandy gold Spanish marble and polished brass Calatraz tile is set with glass tile underlines the dining space.



above: Saxner's comfortable dining table with a central table from David & Clark is a subtle nod to the home's history. American-style wooden chairs from Paracore Design, a glassstone table and a brass table from the gallery, add to the eclectic mix. From Douglas, flanked by a brass lighting table from

"This home has a large, grand presence but really lives as a family home," Swartz says. "All of the spaces are meant to be lived in and enjoyed."



There's a hallway and through a set of custom designed doors with glass inserts lies the husband's library, where a contemporary style desk finished in dark espresso oak makes a strong masculine statement. Deep, natural dunes spotted with accents of gold and brass, like the custom tile with a golden-hued maple wood cabinet.

Keeping it casual, the nearby kitchen is the place "where everyone congregates." Casual yet, Maple flooring leads connecting with the main living area, while custom designed, maple wood cabinets in a cream reveal fronts and espresso blue walls add a fresh, beachy theme. A relaxed entrance connects into the family room, where two-story windows offer the outside view to the center stage and deep seated furnishings provide comfortable seating. This is a rare gathering space that embodies the light-hearted spirit of the Wilson family," Swartz says.

Next to the kitchen is a glass-enclosed breakfast area, open to the island and glass maple wood cabinets finished from the kitchen. Dining with custom tile in the island set up as an extended island with a central heated base that adds depth and presence in helping formal by transitioning back to the kitchen's country.

Next to the entrance the family room with two of elegant and sophisticated in a warm glow on a set of deep seats that feature a tan and cream striped fabric. Space has custom leather with maple veneer. A large window in the room offers a view of the ocean and a view of the beach.





*Left:* The master suite features a canopy bed from Michael Taylor created by artists from the Arty Howard Collection with a specially hand-carved head. The seating area is composed of upholstered velvet, custom silk chenille and leather. Other items include a chair from Arty Howard's collection, a lamp, custom-made ottoman from Michael and a quilted armchair from the Arty Howard Collection. These appointments are pulled from Pottery Barn's custom-made line.

*Right:* The master suite is made of wood, of course, and we give the room a more romantic theme. Lush fabrics and layered textures afford an elegant backdrop for the centerpiece, Arty Howard's canopy bed supported in custom silk chenille and cut velvet pillows. "What we like best about this house is the white it is very spacious, we were still able to capture a feeling of warmth and coziness," Carol says. "We have ample space for the kids and their friends to gather here, but the house is equally as accommodating for an intimate or elegant dinner party."

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SOURCES

Blue Colony Post Area

Post, the jst, banquette, pedestal with  
plastered finish and flooring - Custom  
designed by Kevin Woodard Design,  
Dania Beach, FL

Post, pool wing and the jst fabricated by  
John Carlson, Jacksonville, FL

Banquette fabric - Perennials,  
David Sutherland Showroom, DCOFA,  
Dania Beach, FL

Fabricated by Personal Touch Draperies,  
inc., West Palm Beach, FL

Pedestal columns fabricated by Carl Stone  
Industries, Inc., Altamonte Springs, FL

Partners fabricated by Creative Designs  
& Landscaping, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Decking fabricated by Kevin Porter,  
St. Augustine, FL

Daybed - Parker Furniture, Inc., Miami, FL

Fabric - Nani Fabrics, Inc., Watsonville, CA,  
and Perennials, David Sutherland  
Showroom, DCOFA, Dania Beach, FL

Chaises, lounge chairs and  
ottomans - David Sutherland Showroom,  
DCOFA, Dania Beach, FL

Chair fabric - Holly Hunt Miami, Miami, FL

Lounge chair and ottoman fabric - Nani  
Fabrics, Inc., Watsonville, CA, and  
Editors, Houston, TX

Occasional table - Artifacts International,  
Chula Vista, CA

Living Room

Grid ceiling - Smith Custom Cabinetry  
Inc., St. Petersburg, FL

Columns and fireplace

surround - Barbara Sutherland Design,  
inc., West Palm Beach, FL

Club chair - Cameron Collection, Dallas, TX

Beaded trim in blue accent  
color - Kravet, Inc., Bethpage, NY

Portuguese armchair - Charles Pollock  
Reproductions, Inc., Los Angeles, CA

Cushion fabric - Gretchen Seifinger, Inc.,  
Albany, NY

Ottoman - Kirk Brunner, Shuncheng &  
Fis, Inc., North White Plains, NY

Cocktail table - Gregorius Press,  
Culver City, CA

Chests - Formations, Los Angeles, CA

Needing occasional tables - Amy Howard  
Collection, Memphis, TN

Chandelier and candlestick table

lamp - Parache Designs, Los Angeles, CA

Double gourd table lamp - Baker Knapp  
& Tuttle, DCOFA, Dania Beach, FL

Alabaster urn lamps on chests - Gallery  
Ellis, Carmel, CA

Candlesticks on cocktail table - The  
Stone Jarman Collection, Charles Pollock  
Reproductions, Inc., Los Angeles, CA

Jars - Dennis & Leen, Los Angeles, CA

Dining Room

Grid ceiling - Collier Classic Homes,  
inc., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Side chair fabric and custom-sized host  
chair - Swann Furniture, High Point, NC

Host chair fabric - Shuncheng & Fis,  
North White Plains, NY

continued